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CLAIMS:

1. A satellite-based fax distribution system including:

a producer receiving a document to be faxed and traffic instructions for said

5 document, said producer determining an affiliate based on said traffic instructions and directing said document to said affiliate through a satellite;

a satellite receiving said document from said producer and transmitting said document to said affiliate; and

an affiliate receiving said document and faxing said document to a recipient.

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2. The system of claim 1 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said recipient.

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3. The system of claim 1 wherein said recipient information is sent to said affiliate.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said producer receives said document from a virtual fax print driver.

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5. The system of claim 1 wherein said affiliate includes a memory for storing said document.

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein said affiliate stores information concerning said document.

5 7. The system of claim 1 wherein said affiliate notifies said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

8. A method for distributing faxes via a satellite-based fax distribution system, said method including:

10 receiving a document to be faxed;
receiving traffic instructions regarding said document;
determining an affiliate based on said traffic instructions at a producer;
directing said document to said affiliate through a satellite;
receiving said document at said affiliate; and
15 faxing said document from said affiliate to a recipient.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said recipient and said recipient information is sent to said affiliate.

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10. The method of claim 8 wherein said producer receives said document and said traffic instructions from a virtual fax print driver.

11. The method of claim 8 further including storing said document at said

5 affiliate.

12. The method of claim 8 further including storing information regarding said document at said affiliate.

13. The method of claim 8 further including notifying said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

14. An affiliate in a satellite-based fax distribution system, said affiliate including:

15 a receiver for receiving a document from a producer over a satellite communication link, said document routed from said producer to said receiver by traffic instructions;

a fax system for faxing said document to a recipient.

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The affiliate of claim 15 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said recipient and said recipient information is sent to said affiliate.

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The affiliate of claim 15 further including a memory for storing said document.

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The affiliate of claim 15 further including a memory for storing information regarding said document.

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The affiliate of claim 15 wherein said receiver notifies said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

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20. An Ethernet Digital Storage (EDS) Card for use in a satellite-based fax

15 distribution system, said EDS card including:

a flash memory storage for storing at least a portion of a received document; and
a command processor sending said document to a fax system for transmission.

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21. A satellite-based fax distribution system including:

20 a producer in communication with a satellite, said producer receiving a document
to be faxed and traffic instructions for said document, said producer determining a

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plurality of remote affiliates based on said traffic instructions and directing said

document to said plurality of remote affiliates through said satellite;

a satellite receiving said document from said producer and transmitting said
document to said plurality of remote affiliates; and

a plurality of remote affiliates,

whereby said plurality of remote affiliates receive said document from said

satellite, and

whereby said plurality of remote affiliates faxes said document to a plurality of
remote recipients..

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The system of claim *21* wherein said traffic instructions include recipient
information identifying said plurality of remote recipients.

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The system of claim *21* wherein said recipient information is sent to said
plurality of remote affiliates.

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The system of claim *21* wherein said producer receives said document
from a virtual fax print driver.

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The system of claim *21* wherein at least one of said plurality of remote
affiliates includes a memory for storing said document.

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2.



~~26.~~ The system of claim 21 wherein at least one of said plurality of remote

affiliates stores information concerning said document.

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~~29~~ The system of claim ~~21~~ wherein at least one of said plurality of remote

affiliates notifies said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO